

ship, conference and associate action ; they are not churchly in their nature, but simply voluntary gatherings for Christian good cheer, improvement and progress. They are at the utmost remove in their very nature from the authoritative annual assemblies, or quarterly, as the case may be, of our Wesleyan, Presbyterian or Episcopalian brethren. Even when we summon a "Council," which may be done by any church desiring the help of neighbouring churches, it is strictly limited to the giving of advice, and there is no penalty for disregarding that advice, though such disregard is almost an unknown thing.

It is an essential requisite of such churches that they should be composed of Christ's disciples. Without sound Christian principle in the membership they cannot be held together. Such an organization possesses no other binding force than love to Christ and to one another. But all this tends to develop individual power. There is among these equals a consciousness of personal responsibility which awakens power that would otherwise be dormant. A well-wrought Congregational Church is a capital training school for men and women who would be thoughtful, well-poised and energetic.

The non-existence of any authoritative human formula of doctrine among them leaves wide open the door for devout, God-fearing and Christ-adoring people to enter in and dwell in peace, though they could not in all things subscribe the creeds of the sixteenth century. And yet, as a fact, there is wondrous harmony of doctrinal faith amongst them. The same freedom from these written-creeds tends to create in the ministry a tone and style of instruction greatly needed by many thoughtful minds in the community.

To say nothing, then, of the historic glories of our churches, nor of the fact, which all well-informed historians acknowledge, that England is largely indebted to our ancestors, the Independents, for the civil and religious liberty she enjoys ; there are sufficient grounds for the existence and work of our churches, and therefore for loyalty to them and zeal for their welfare. The principles we maintain are worth contending for. It must prove of immense value to our rising Dominion to have these principles developed and maintained amid its religious life. Let our young people be well instructed in them, and be taught the history of the past in relation to them, that they may be fired with enthusiasm on their behalf. Our people, for the most part, do not feel at home in other communions, though they do not always know the reason why. It were well that they should learn that reason by a competent acquaintance with our history and with the principles that underlie it.

Greatly to love and eagerly to maintain our own church life, does not in the least affect our love of Christian union, for we love and maintain principles which rejoice in the progress of the Redeemer's cause on the earth. The success of other sections of the church in the true work of the Lord is to us a matter for thanksgiving to God. Our blessed Lord and His kingdom are the paramount consideration ; in the triumphs of His salvation we rejoice ! But surely the rallying heartily around our regimental banner is not incompatible with this ; the rather is it in keeping with loyalty to the Divine Leader and His whole army. He is best served by making one's own regiment as effective as we can in the great conflict in which all are engaged who love the Lord Jesus in sincerity. The only valid ground for a change of regiment is an enlightened conviction that the work of the Lord and the progress of the army in its legitimate enterprises can be better furthered in another one. But with our sentiments and principles in relation to that work and those enterprises, it is difficult to understand how such change can be otherwise than a mistake, if nothing worse.

We need a revival of the spirit of our fathers in fervent loyalty to our principles and to Him who gave them to us. If we had this we could apply those principles more widely and thoroughly, and be a much greater blessing to our country. We have capabilities for development and enlargement which would astonish us if we were only faithful to our vocation. God has honoured us, and is still doing so, in accomplishing a large amount of good in this country ; but if we are all true to